

to the previous positions. In some cases the antennae could be stroked with no effect.

At the onset of these observations one specimen was seen flying and alighting twice to bask in the more usual fashion, opening its wings partially and attempting to orient to sunlight, which it could not find. This specimen was seen to pivot 360 degrees before flying out of sight downwind.

The lateral posture of *Brephidium* under these circumstances did not strongly suggest basking or thermoregulating, due to minimization of the exposed wing area. The background vegetation was flecked with disused spider webs which apparently had contained egg cases. At a distance of several meters the similarity of the butterflies to these objects was striking, and it is possible that arthropod or avian predators could be deceived by this "mimicry." Up close, however, these web "models" are quite different in shape and detail from their butterfly "mimics."

While blues in a lateral position are highly visible from above, they are very difficult to see edge-on. Shorebirds or other would-be predators of similar height may have difficulty spotting them. Also, pale colors against a bright, cloudy sky may blend the way fish and other creatures with pale bellies do, as protection from below.

Since this observation was made, on 14 April 1982, at 1320 hours in Barton Creek near Austin, Travis Co., Texas, a single individual of *Echinargus isola* (Reakirt) was seen perching in an identical manner on the petals of a blooming garden *Coreopsis* (Compositae) flower. It was not feeding, and when picked up with fingers and released it was able to sustain flight. The day was heavily overcast and rain was only minutes from falling, but the wind was slight and the temperature nearly 20°C.

Intend to make further observations on this matter and encourage other students to document similar observations and make them available in order to gain an understanding of the phenomenon and its causes.

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Dione moneta poeyii **Butler [1873] in New Mexico** (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

The first reported capture in New Mexico of the neotropical butterfly *Dione moneta poeyii* was made on 28 April 1981 at Sunspot (Otero County). The female specimen was taken by hand while nectaring on a yellow composite. Sunspot is located on Sacramento Peak, 9250' (2819 m) and has abundant, roadside wildflowers present there in the late spring and summer. It is situated in south central New Mexico in the Sacramento Mountains, and offers a montane, conifer woodland habitat characterized by Douglas fir, juniper, Gambel oak, and aspen. The habitat at Sunspot is unlike that at *D. moneta poeyii*'s nearest reported capture site in southwest Texas. Whether this individual specimen is a 'straggler' by Gilbert's (J. Lepid. Soc. 23(3):177-185, 1969) definition or evidence of a local population is impossible to say from a single specimen. Possibly the unusually hot, dry, southerly winds that year played a role in its presence in New Mexico. The specimen was in fairly good condition, but for a pair of beak marks on the hind



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Dione moneta poeyii* Butler captured in Otero County, New Mexico on 28 April 1981. Photo taken by R. Faller.

wings. Dr. R. W. Spellenberg (pers. conver.) reported to me that its food plant, *Passiflora*, does not occur in the Sacramento Mountains.

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